

REMARKS

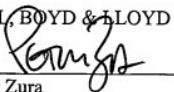
The present Preliminary Amendment makes editorial changes and corrects typographical errors in the specification, which includes the Abstract, in order to conform the specification to the requirements of the United States Patent Practice. No new matter is added by this Preliminary Amendment. Attached hereto is a Substitute Specification including a marked-up version of the changes made thereto by the present Amendment.

In addition, the present Preliminary Amendment cancels the original claims 1-23 in favor of new claims 24-46. Claims 24-46 have been presented solely because the revisions by red-lining and underlining which would have been necessary in claims 1-23 in order to present those claims in accordance with preferred United States Patent Practice would have been too extensive, and thus would have been too burdensome. The present Preliminary Amendment is intended for clarification purposes only and not for substantial reasons related to patentability pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103 and § 112. Indeed, the cancellation of claims 1-23 does not constitute an intent on the part of the Applicant to surrender any of the subject matter of the claim 1-23.

Early consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Peter Zura

Reg. No. 48,196

Customer No.: 29177

Phone: (312) 807-4208

Dated: May 5, 2006